

B-4442

SALEM UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

This church was constructed in 1872 in a Renaissance Revival style. It is a freestanding, two-story, three-bay church with end gable roof. It is today covered in Formstone. It bears a striking resemblance to another Baltimore City church, the Leadenhall Baptist Church. Access is limited to church worship hours.

MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES FORM
SANDTOWN-WINCHESTER SURVEY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Salem United Brethren Church

other names/site number Gethsemane Baptist Church/ B-4442

2. Location

street & number 2520 Francis St.

not for publication

city or town Baltimore

vicinity N/A

state Maryland

code MD

county Baltimore City

code 510

zip code 21217

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

1

SDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
(Salem United Brethren Church)
(Baltimore City, MD)

B-4442
(Page 2)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION

Sub: religious facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION

Sub: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Renaissance

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

roof

walls SYNTHETICS

other SYNTHETICS

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Religion

Community Planning and Development

Ethnic Heritage

SDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
(Salem United Brethren Church)
(Baltimore City, MD)

B-4442
(Page 3)

Period of Significance 1872-1940

Significant Dates 1872

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Maps

Bromley, G.W. and Co. Atlas of the City of Baltimore, Vol. 1. Philadelphia: 1885, 1896.
Hopkins, G.M. Map of the City of Baltimore, Maryland. 1876, 1877.
Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps, Baltimore, Maryland, Vols. 2,3, and 7. New York: 1890, 1901, 1914, 1928.
Simmons, Isaac. 1852 Revision of the Thomas H. Poppleton Map. Baltimore: 1852.

Maryland Churches United. The Christian Bicentennial Witness. Baltimore: undated.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Lot = 72'10" x 83'

SDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
(Salem United Brethren Church)
(Baltimore City, MD)

B-4442
(Page 4)

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	—	—	—	3	—	—
2	—	—	—	4	—	—

— See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Block 3408, Lot 42

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are based on a city lot(s) retaining original property lines.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Jo Lampl & Kay Fanning/Architectural Historians
organization Robinson & Associates date July 1992
street & number 1710 Connecticut Ave., NW telephone (202) 234-2333
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20009

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Gethsemane Baptist Church
street&number 2518 Francis telephone
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21217

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 5 & 6 Page 1

Salem United Brethren Church
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape
Architecture, and Community Planning; Religion;
Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: building(s)

Historic Environment: urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): religion

Known Design Source: none

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Salem United Brethren Church
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

DESCRIPTION

A simple Renaissance Revival structure of 1872, this freestanding two-story, three-bay church is one of the earliest churches in the survey area and the only remaining church in the heart of the Penn-North community. In the late 19th century, Clifton M.E. Church, at the corner of Clifton and Woodbrook, also served the community, but it has been demolished. The architecture of the church bears a striking similarity to Leadenhall Baptist Church, built one year later by the Maryland Baptist Union Association.

Today, the church is covered with formstone, which likely conceals the original brick surface. The church has a gable roof, and the gable forms a pediment defined by a modillioned cornice.

Entrance is through a small projecting gable-roofed vestibule with an arched door opening and arched side windows. All are detailed with stone moldings joined by a stone beltcourse. The vestibule is flanked by small segmental windows in the first floor. Three large arched windows form a piano nobile on the second, or sanctuary level. The central window is twice the width of the other two, and contains tracery. All windows are contained within cut ashlar stone niches that extend through both floor levels. They all contain what appears to be the original stained glass. Covering the stained glass today is protective glass. The nave windows follow the same pattern as those on the facade, with segmental-headed openings below and large arched windows above. The second-floor windows along the side elevations in the nave are also contained within arched niches.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Salem United Brethren Church
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1872, this is one of the earliest churches in the survey area, and the first in Penn-North.¹ It first appears on the 1876 Hopkins Map as the Salem Mission, United Brethren in Christ, and was likely a mission church to attract the many German immigrants living in the Penn-North neighborhood.

The Brethren Church was founded in Maryland by German settlers who came to the state in the mid-18th century. At that time, the Brethren congregants met in houses, not churches, due to their wish to worship in imitation of primitive Christians. The existence of this Brethren Church in Penn-North points to the many German immigrants² who populated the area, especially the butchers, whose many slaughterhouses lined Pennsylvania Avenue immediately to the east. The Brethren are known for their strong positions on evil and the futility of war.

Despite the different affiliation, the church bears a striking resemblance to the Leadenhall Baptist Church, constructed one year later in the Sharp-Leadenhall area of the city. That church was commissioned by the Maryland Baptist Union Association and designed and built by the firm of Joseph Thomas and Son. One of two explanations for the similarity is likely: the look of the church was derived from a "pattern-book," popular with many builders, or the Brethren Church was also built by the contractor Joseph Thomas and Son.

The Salem United Brethren still occupied the building in 1928, according to the Sanborn Map of that year. The current church, Gethsemane Baptist Church, is an African American congregation of which little is known. It is thought

that the African-American congregation moved in at approximately that time (based on a brief conversation with current church members).

¹ The two other oldest churches in the survey include St. Peter Claver Church (the core of the building, which contains a pre-1876 church) and Whatcoat Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed in 1871 on Stricker Street in Sandtown.

² Immigrants also came from Prussia, Baden, and Bremen.

SANDTOWN-WINCHESTER/PENN-NORTH
RECONNAISSANCE-LEVEL SURVEY FORM

Survey No. B-4442

Neg. No. 7/5

Historic Name Salem United Brethren Church

Current Name/Use Gethsemane Baptist Church

Address(es) 2520 Francis Street

Resource/Property Type

☐ Rowhouses
☐ Commercial Structure
☒ Public/Institutional Building
☐ Public Housing
☐ Site
☐ Other

☐ Attached

☒ Freestanding

Note: _____

Stories 2

Primary Material brick (?), stone Secondary Material wood

Roof Form end-gable

No. of Bays in Unit/Facade 3 If Rowhouse: ☐ Flat Front ☐ Swell Front ☐ Porch

Window Type: ☐ Double-Hung

☐ 1/1 Sash

☐ 2/2 Sash

☐ 2/1 Sash

☐ Other Sash

☐ Transom

Door Type: ☐ Single-Leaf

☒ Double-Leaf

☐ Number of panels (if visible)

☐ Transom

Architectural Style Renaissance Revival Date c. 1872

Noteworthy Features: Pedimented facade with modillioned cornice. First-floor entrance vestibule in center, with pedimented gable, beltcourse. Small segmental-headed windows on 1st floor. Three large arched windows on "piano nobile" 2nd floor. Stained-glass windows. Extensive refacing obscures details.

Alterations: ☒ Formstone

☐ Vinyl/Aluminum

☐ Awnings

☐ First-Floor Use Change

☐ Stucco

☒ Window/Door Changes

☐ Missing Cornice Elements

☒ Other: storm windows added

Status: ☒ Occupied ☐ Vacant ☐ Mixed

NR Evaluation: ☒ Contributing ☐ Non-Contributing

Recommended for Intensive Level: ☒ Yes ☐ No

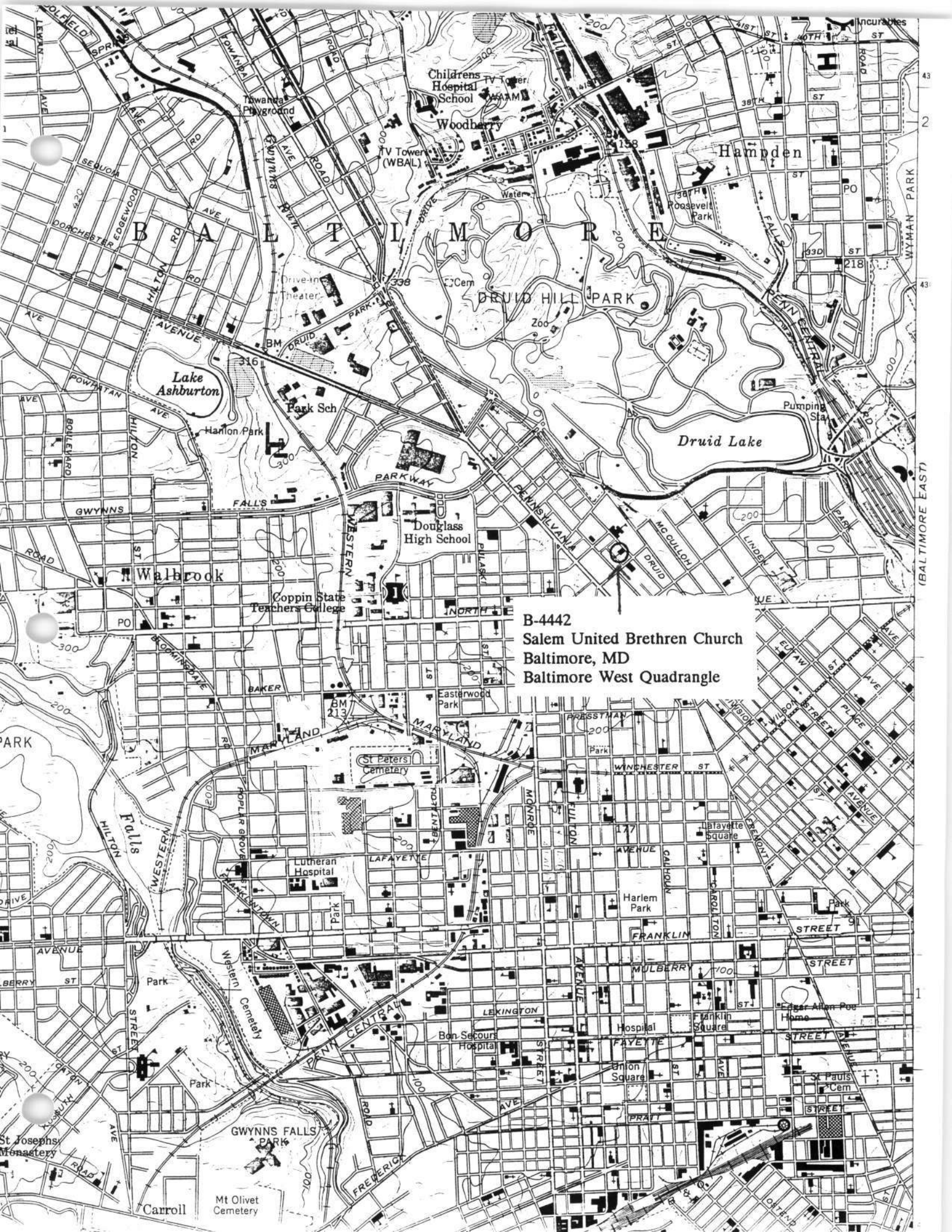
Surveyor: Joey Lampl

Affiliation: Robinson & Associates

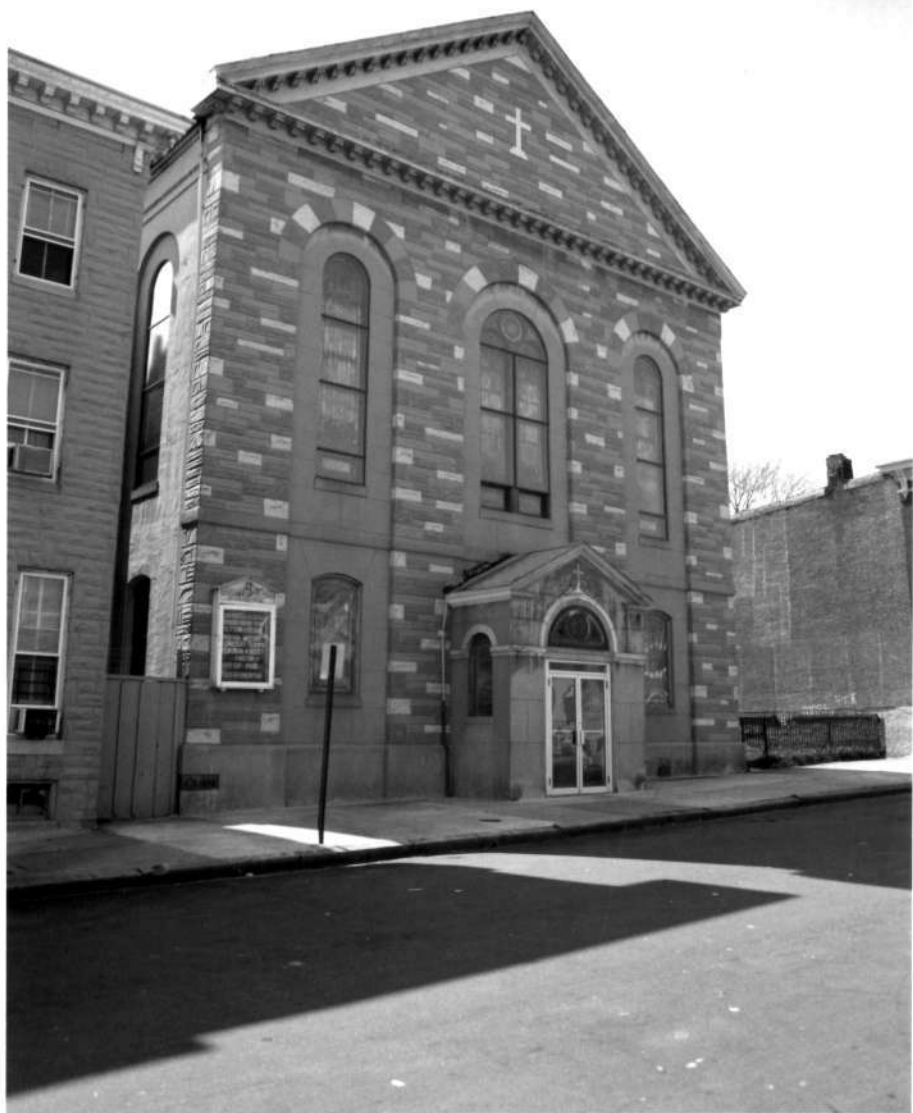
Date: February-April 1992



B-4442
Salem United Brethren Church
Baltimore, MD
Hopkins Map, 1876



B-4442
Salem United Brethren Church
Baltimore, MD
Baltimore West Quadrangle



SANDTOWN · WINCHESTER / PENN-NORTH

#B-4442

BALTIMORE, MD

ELIZABETH GO LAMPL

MARCH 1992

CITY OF BALTIMORE, COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

2520 FRANCES ST.

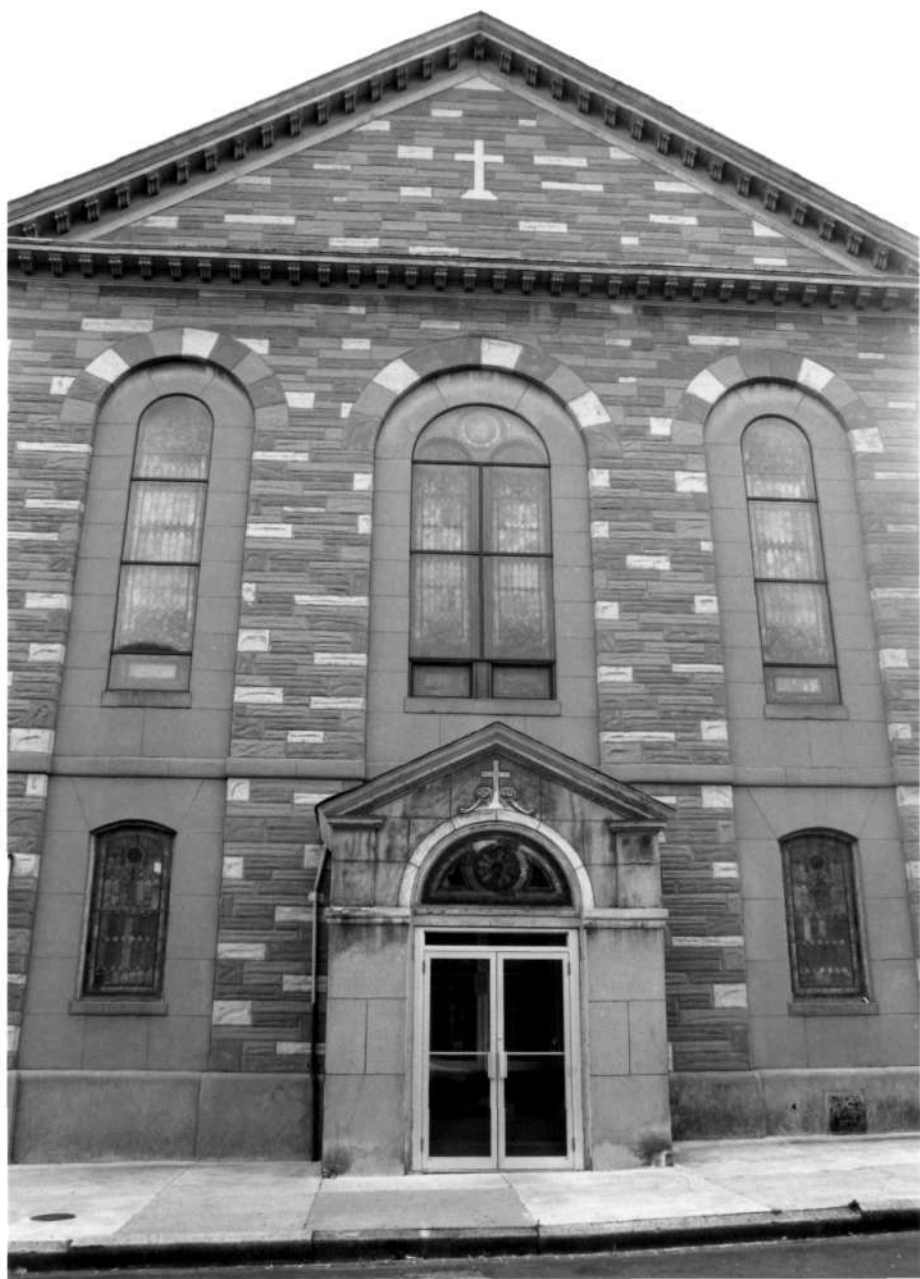
HISTORIC: SALEM UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

CURRENT: GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

ROLL 7 / NEG 5

1 of 2



Sandtown-Winchester/Penn-North

#B-4442

Baltimore, MD

Leonard Jackson

July 1992

City of Baltimore, Commission for Historical
and Architectural Preservation

Historic: Salem United Brethren Church

Current: Gethsemane Baptist Church

2520 Francis Street

Northeast Elevation

Roll 9/neg 22

2 of 2